equipments is not made available to New Co-operative sugar factories in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have received any recommendations from the Government of Maharashtra to extend the loan facility of the Sugar Development Fund to the New Cooperative sugar factories; and

(c) if so, the decisions of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) According to prevalent practice, sugar mills which have conducted trial crushing or are in operation are eligible for loans from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for cane development schemes. For availing SDF loans for modernisation, a sugar undertaking must have been operational for a minimum of seven crushing seasons after starting regular crushing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As stated in (a) above.

Sick Industrial Units in Karnataka

3105. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mini, micro and macro cement plants which are sick in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has written letters to Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help Karnataka to overcome the sickness in the units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : (a) It has been reported by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) that six cement units of Karnataka have made a reference to them under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the new Industrial Policy, licensing/registration has been abolished for all industrial undertakings including MRTP/FERA Companies intending to take up manufacture of cement. Price and distribution controls on cement industry were removed with effect from 1-3-89. Government closely monitor the availability of coal. Railway wagons and other infrastructural support to the cement industry and remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

In order to improve the economic viability of mini cement plants, the excise duty on cement manufactured by mini cement plants with certain specific capacities has been reduced to Rs. 90/- per tonne from the basic duty of Rs. 215/- per tonne.

[Translation]

Enquiries against Senior Government Officers

3106. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted enquiries against the senior officers of the Central Government departments in Bihar for corruption and irregularities;

(b) if so, the number of officers against whom enquiries have been conducted during the last two years year-wise;